GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2720
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
ACQUISITION OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to acquire another aircraft carrier for Indian Navy keeping in view the urgent security needs of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): Currently the Indian Navy has one aircraft carrier, viz, INS Viraat in its service against the requirement of two operational aircraft carriers. The Government have approved the indigenous construction of an Air Defence Ship for the Indian Navy in 1999.

The Government of the Russian Federation have offered to gift `Admiral Gorshkov`, an Aircraft Carrier, to India.However, it will require to be repaired, modified and modernized before it can be inducted into service of Indian Navy. An Inter-Governmental Agreement in this regard has been signed between Indian and Russian sides on 4.10.2000.